

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 XMB-02

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R 111752Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 735

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1825

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GATT

SUBJECT: EC MEMBER STATE COST ESCALATION INSURANCE SCHEMES

REF: (A) MTN GENEVA 1806, (B) EC BRUSSELS 1776, (C) EC BRUSSELS 676

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A, MISSION CHECKED AGAIN WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO RECONFIRM EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION PLANS TO DECIDE SHORTLY ON A DRAFT DIRECTIVE TO PHASE MEMBER STATE COST ESCALATION INSURANCE SCHEMES. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THE COMMISSION IS STILL SCHEDULED TO TAKE THIS UP ON MARCH 24 AT WHICH TIME IT IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE TO THE EC COUNCIL THAT THESE SCHEMES BE PHASED OUT OVER A THREE OR FOUR YEAR PERIOD. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THEY EXPECT A LONG AND ARDUOUS NEGOTIATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL ADOPTS THIS PROPOSAL. IN SHORT, THE COUNCIL WILL NOT ACT WITHIN AT LEAST THE NEXT YEAR OR SO.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PATIENCE OF US AUHORITIES IN DELAYING ITS REQUEST TO THE GATT COUNCIL TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO LOOK INTO THESE SCHEMES. THEY SAY THE COMMISSION

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WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT SUCH A REQUEST ONCE THE

COMMISSION DECIDES ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT DIRECTIVE.
THESE OFFICIALS REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE US CANNOT
WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR THE COMMISSION TO ACT. THUS,
THEY DO NOT PLAN TO ASK THE US TO DELAY ITS REQUEST
BEYOND MARCH 24.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONFIRM THE REPORT IN REF A,
THAT THE MEMBER STATES, AND NOT THE EC, HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF NOTIFYING THE GATT OF THEIR SCHEMES. HINTON

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